OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

0 , 0 SCM 0 0 l CLASSIFICATION DATE-TIME GROUP 22HU\AID SOURCE REF: 5 11 TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO, STATE RCI//INFO OPS CTR FOR MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION CIA REP, 25X1A9a TREMASURY DEPT//INFO WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED ITEM NO: 2 DATE: 31 OCT 74 SUBJECT: 25X1A2g THE SITUATION IN SAIGON REF DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF OPPOSITION DEMONSTRATIONS AND INCIDENTS IN SAIGON. MORE ARE SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW WHICH IS SOUTH VIETNAM'S NATIONAL DAY. MOST OF THESE HAVE BEEN MINOR IN SCALE AND HANDLED EASILY BY THE POLICE WITH THE MOST SERIOUS BINCIDENT OCCURRED WHEN A A MINIMUM OF FORCE. CROUD OF 1-000 PERSONS INCLUDING A LARGE NUMBER OF TEENAGE YOUTH, ORGANIZED BY THE CATHOLIC ANTICORRUPTION MOVEMENT, ATTEMPTED TO BREAK THROUGH POLICE BARRICADES AND MARCH ON DOWN TOWN SAIGON. PRESS DISPATCHES CLAIM THAT FATHER THANH, THE LEADER OF THE CATHOLIC DISSIDENTS, WAS INJURED BY POLICE IN THE RESULTING MELEE. DATE: ORIG: UNIT:

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CHANNELS

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CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL MESSAGE MANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

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EMBASSY REPORTS, HOWEVER, THAT FATHER THANH DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY HURT, IF AT ALL.

THESE LATEST DEMONSTRATIONS AND INCIDENTS ARE BEING PROVOKED BY THE SAME SMALL NUMBER OF POLITICAL AGITATORS WHO HAVE BEEN UP TO NOW, THE POLICE HAVE REACTED ACTIVE SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER. TO THEIR DEMONSTRATIONS WITH RESTRAINT -- AN APPROACH THAT HAS CREATED NO MARTYRS AND HELPED TO PROTECT THE GOVERNMENT'S IMAGE AT HOME PRESIDENT THIEU, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO BE DETERMENTINED AND ABROAD. TO SHUT OFF THE POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS IN SAIGON DURING THE NATIONAL DAY PERIOD AND MAY NOW BE ADOPTING A TOUGHER APPRESSION CENTRAL SAIGON HAS BEEN CORDONED OFF AND LARGE NUMBERS OF POLICE HAVE BEEN POSTED THROUGHOUT THE CITY. THIS MASSIVE POLICE PRESENCE APPEARS TO BE CONTRIBUTING TO HIGHLY EXAGGERATED PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION. EZ IMPDET. MMH 25X1A9a EAP DIV, NIO (SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION:

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31 OCT 74

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